

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00393 261427Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 BIB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 261342Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7647

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 393

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CZ, VT

SUBJECT: ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI'S VISIT TO PRAGUE

REF: A) PRAGUE 253; B)PRAGUE 290

1. RUDE PRAVO FEB 25 AND FEB 26 EACH FEATURED FRONT PAGE ARTICLES ON CASAROLI'S ARRIVAL IN PRAGUE. FIRST ARTICLE CONFIRMED THAT VISIT IS STATE-TO-STATE, THAT CASAROLI WAS HERE AT INVITATION OF CSSR FONMIN CHNOUPEK, AND THAT DEPUTY FONMIN RUZEK AND GOC CHURCH AFFAIRS SECRETARY HRUZA ARE TAKING PART IN TALKS. SECOND ARTICLE DESCRIBED TALKS CASAROLI HAD FEB 25 WITH CHNOUPEK ON MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, CSCE. IT ALSO REFERRED TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CASAROLI AND CSSR DEPUTY PREMIER LUCAN LATER THAT DAY ON CS-VATICAN RELATIONS AND "OTHER CHURCH POLITICAL MATTERS."

2. COMMENT. WHAT IS PARTICULARLY STRIKING ABOUT THE SECOND ARTICLE IS ITS APPEARANCE ON A RUDE PRAVO FRONT PAGE OTHERWISE GIVEN OVER ENTIRELY TO REPORTING OF FEB 25 CELEBRATIONS MARKING COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN 1948. THIS UNUSUAL PRESS PLAY WAS COMBINED WITH EQUALLY
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UNUSUAL POSITIVE PRESS COMMENTARY ABOUT THE VATICAN SEEN

IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS IN RECENT DAYS. THE CZECHOSLOVAK
AUTHORITIES SEEM TO BE CONVEYING THE PUBLIC IMPRESSION
THAT GOC IS READY TO ENTER A NEW AND BETTER
PHASE IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE VATICAN.
SHERER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Film Number: D750068-0461
From: PRAGUE
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To: STATE ROME
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